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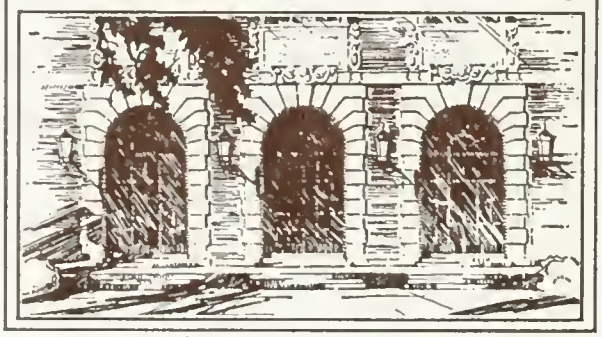

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URBANIZATION, CITY, AND REGIONAL PLANNING OF METROPOLITAN KISUMU, KENYA:

Bibliographical Survey of an East African City

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URBANIZATION, CITY, AND REGIONAL PLANNING OF METROPOLITAN KISUMU, KENYA: BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF AN EAST AFRICAN CITY.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

The folk-urban and rural-urban continuum as a theoretical model of urbanization has been popularized as a result of writings by Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," American Journal of Sociology, 44 (July 1938), pp. 1-24; Robert Redfield, The Folk Culture of Yucatan, Chicago, 1941; Emile Durkheim, The Division of Labour in Society (translated), Glencoe, Illinois, 1958, among others. This urbanization school looks at the city as a process whose development begins from a preindustrial to an industrial order. According to Wirth, urbanism as a way of life has been typified by secularization, secondary group relationships, voluntary associations, increased segmentation of roles, and poorly defined social norms, while Redfield's "folk" ideal type has been characterized as being a small, isolated, nonliterate, homogeneous, familial society with a marketless economy, exhibiting a strong sense of group solidarity, having a simple technology and

division of labour, and having behavior strongly patterned on a conventional basis. This Wirth-Redfield perspective has been well-analyzed and criticized by T. N. Morris in Urban Sociology, New York, 1968.

In Gideon Sjoberg's The Preindustrial City Past and Present, Glencoe, Illinois, 1960, urban characteristics are approached by contrasting the preindustrial city with the industrial city. It is noted that the preindustrial city has a small elite, a large lower class, and a very small middle class. It is characterized by having formal elite education, little social mobility within the established social stratifications, and a social class and economic position strongly influenced by kinship. In a later study, Sjoberg expanded his theory of urban development to include more than the preindustrial city and the industrial city. He also attempted to isolate the structural correlates of central places in transition or those urban communities now undergoing industrialization around the world (see "Cities in Developing and Industrial Societies: a Cross Cultural Analysis," Study of Urbanization, edited by P. M. Hauser and L. Schnore, New York, 1965). Ample studies have also been done to prove or disprove the theoretical concepts of preindustrial and industrial cities, but few investigators have diagnosed the theoretical concepts of the industrializing (colonial) cities such as Kisumu because of a lack of published documents.

In studying the theoretical orientation of the preindustrial, colonial, and industrial city, Sjoberg has emphasized technology as a most important variable for explaining the nature of the city. According to him technology involves "the tools, the source of energy, and the know-how connected with the use of both tools and

energy that a social system employs. Industrialization is that kind of technology that relies on inanimate energy sources, highly complex tools, and the specialized know-how required to tap these power sources and utilize these advanced tools." Apart from technological orientation, the study of urbanization includes divergent cultural values, social stratification and organization, structural-functional frame of reference, and contradictory functional requirements.

But in analyzing the structure of any colonial city, special care must be exercised in the study of the above characteristics since this type of city is transitional--having characteristics somewhere between those of the preindustrial and the industrial cities. There are two types of colonial cities--those that are products of colonial occupancy, popularly known as colonial or expatriate-initiate cities such as Kisumu, Calcutta, or Shanghai and those cities that are indigenous to the preindustrial civilized order such as the Yoruba towns in Nigeria.

The scholars of urbanization in the developing countries have emphasized that the social structure of a colonial city tends to change in the following manner: first, there is the persistence of traditional cultures as can be witnessed in numerous African towns today; secondly, there is the modification of the preindustrial or traditional forms in order to be in tune with the emerging urban-industrial system. The urban-industrial phenomenon has developed a class structure with a wide hiatus between the upper and lower economic levels; and lastly, in some cases, there is a rapid disappearance of preindustrial forms of behavior and the emergence of new behaviors within a new urban setting. The urbanization of transitional cities is usually accompanied by the formation of

formal and informal associations. These voluntary associations orient migrants to the new and complex urban milieu, act as a means by which the urbanites sustain ties with the rural areas, and act as a means through which industrial-urban life styles are diffused to the rural areas. This then is another way of viewing the theoretical construct of a transitional city.

The colonial city as a type of urban phenomena is quite old. Professor Tom McGee, in his study entitled "The Rural-Urban Debate: the Preindustrial City and Rural-Urban Migration," Pacific Viewpoint, V (September 1964), pp. 159-179 and in his recent book entitled The Southeast Asian City, London, 1967, has explicitly identified the colonial city as being one of the three major classes or urbanization (the other two being the preindustrial city and the industrial city). Using the role of power groups or power analysis, African urban researchers like William Bascom in his article called "Urbanization as Traditional Pattern in Africa," Sociological Review, volume 7, number 1 (1959), Akin Mabogunje in his book entitled Urbanization in Nigeria, New York, 1969, and R. J. Horvath in his article called "In Search of a Theory of Urbanization: Notes on the Colonial City," East Lakes Geographer, Vol. V, December 1969, pp. 69-81 have conceived a colonial city model based on the theory of colonialism. In defining his typology, Horvath cites colonialism as a "...form of domination where one group controls a part of the affairs of another...it appears that the basic difference between imperialism and colonialism lies with this variable (presence or absence of permanent settlers): imperialism refers to that form of domination where few, if any, settlers move permanently to the colony, whereas colonization involves the movement of permanent settlers to the dominated areas."

Viewing a colonial or expatriate initiated city as a subsystem of a colonial society, Horvath gives the following basic characteristics; (a) it is a heterogenous or plural society consisting of indigenous as well as foreign immigrants, (b) domination is one of the key elements, (c) there exists a socio-economic and political entrepot between the colonizers and the colonized, and (d) social stratification consists of three groups in a hierarchical order: the exogenous elite colonialists; and intervening group resulting from interracial marriages and from migrations from countries other than colonial powers; and educated and uneducated indigenes.

The theories developed by Sjoberg, McGee, and Horvath are not enough to identify the structure of the so-called colonial city because they have failed to identify which type of colonial city they are dealing with. There are as many colonial cities as there are colonial powers, and there have been many colonial powers over the centuries. Thus in searching for a theory of a colonial city one must isolate the stage of development of the city in question, the aim of the colonizers, and the colonial cities in the scheme.

It is with this aim in mind that we have concentrated on the collection of published and unpublished documents on the urban development of Kisumu, a growing inland metropolitan port in Kenya, East Africa. This is the first of a series of bibliographies of Anglophone cities of North, East, Central, and South Africa that we are in the process of compiling. It is also important to add that the post-independence colonial cities and towns in Africa have not only acquired new economic bases but have also acquired new roles to conform with the new political, economic, cultural, and social functions they are performing at the present time.

Because of this, bibliographies such as this will aid in further detailed studies of each central place in Africa before a universal theory of urbanization can be developed.

In a developing country such as Kenya, a detailed study of the historical development of an urban area before, during, and after colonialism is very important before a comprehensive urban, regional planning scheme can be proposed and implemented. A study of the traditional markets is an important part of the African urban tradition that must be included in any research of urban development (Obudho, 1970). It should also be pointed out that contrary to what most observers believe, urbanization in most of Subsaharan Africa is as old as the continent itself. The theory that there were no urban centres in countries like Kenya before the arrival of Europeans should be discarded.

Hints to Users

In compiling this bibliography, we have read each entry and categorized them into two broad categories: the publications specifically dealing with Kisumu Metropolitan Region and those publications that generally deal with urbanization, city, and regional planning in Kenya and Eastern African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia, Zambia, Rwanda, and Burundi). In addition to the two broad categories, we have added a section on the bibliography of bibliographies. We feel that this is a very important section from the standpoint of researchers on the urbanization processes in Africa.

This bibliography is primarily a suggestive guide to the literature on urbanization, city, and regional planning of metropolitan Kisumu and Kenya. Users of this bibliography are

advised to look at specialized occasional publications that continue to be published. Readers should know that bibliographies are never complete. Four important sources should be consulted, and they are: The African Bibliographic Centre, P. O. Box 13096, Washington, D.C., 20009, U.S.A. (this company produces an important bimonthly bibliography on Africa); the African Geographical Society's monthly publications entitled Current Geographical Publications always contains good selections on African urbanization; African Urban Notes published quarterly from the African Studies Centre, Michigan State University, is to date the only publication of its kind on urban Africa; and of course, the Council of Planning Librarians, P. O. Box 229, Monticello, Illinois, 61856, also publishes occasional exchange bibliographies on the developing countries including Africa. We must also add that a great deal of the entries in this bibliography and any other material on Africa are usually available from the African Section, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that unpublished official Kenya Government documents from 1895 to 1963 have been duplicated and are available for American scholars. One can obtain more information by writing to Director, Kenya National Archives Collection, Interlibrary Loans Department, Syracuse University Library, Syracuse University, New York, 13210. Of course, any unpublished government documents from 1963 to the present can be procured by writing directly to the Chief Archivist, The Kenya National Archives, Jogoo House, P. O. Box 30520, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. Because of the scattered nature of the official unpublished documents in Kisumu, the following sources should be

consulted; Kenya National Archives in Nairobi, Nyanza Province and Central Nyanza (now Siaya and Winam) District manuscript sources at Kisumu; District manuscript sources at Kisii, Homa Bay, and Kericho; Commonwealth and former Colonial Office in London, England, The East African Common Services Organisation in Nairobi and Arusha. In addition to these sources one is advised to consult the Uganda Government Archives at Entebbe and Kampala remembering that the old Eastern Province (the present Nyanza) was not transfered to Kenya until 1902. Finally, there is also a wealth of information on the Town Planning Departments of each urban centre and also in the Town Planning Department, Ministry of Lands and Settlement, Government of Kenya.

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